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FACTS DENIED, SAYS OCHSNER

Tobacco Industry Target of N.O. Surgeon

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Dr. Alton Ochsner of New Orleans Monday said he thinks the tobacco industry is "guilty of denying facts because of financial gain" in the cigarette-lung cancer controversy. The surgeon long has held cigarettes a direct cause of lung cancer.

"In spite of the overwhelming evidence of the causal relationship of cigarette smoking and cancer, the tobacco industry has refused to admit the evidence, and has tried to confuse the issue by blaming other possible factors, such as air pollution," Dr. Ochsner told an American Cancer Society seminar for science writers.

"It seems to us that they would be on much firmer ground if they would admit that there is a calculated risk in smoking . . . and inform the public of this risk so that the responsibility of smoking is entirely the individual's."

'GREAT RISK'

The calculated risk "is not great because it requires a relatively long period of time, 20 years or more, for the condition to develop, although there is tremendous variation in one's susceptibility to cancer," Dr. Ochsner said.

"As long, however, as the industry refuses to accept the evidence, which is apparently irrefutable, it appears to me that they are guilty of denying facts because of financial gain.

"It is extremely unfortunate that the public has become understandably confused because of their inability to differentiate between the motives of the American Cancer Society and those of the tobacco industry.

STATEMENT ISSUED

In New York, the tobacco industry research committee said in a statement:

"Our position is and has been that much more knowledge about cancer and especially lung cancer is neccesary before positive conclusions about the cause or causes can be established. This position is shared by outstanding scientists here and abroad.

"In keeping with our position, we do not believe it is fair to the general public or those connected with the tobacco industry —from grower to retailer— to permit extreme and untrue charges to go unchallenged. Many doctors and scientists simply do not agree that the lung cancer question has been settled."

More Research Needed, Says Group

NEW YORK (UPI)—The tobacco industry research committee said Monday no "positive conclusions" could be drawn on the cause of lung cancer without more research to get needed facts and evidence.

Committee chairman Timothy V. Hartnett issued the statement in response to reports presented at an American Cancer Society seminar on cancer research at Louisville, Ky.

Hartnett said "outstanding scientists here and abroad" shared the opinion that more research was necessary before a definite link could be proved.

"We do not think that the present campaign of repeating the anti-smoking theories of the extremists will ever constitute proof of the charges they make against smoking," Hartnett said.

He quoted a recent editorial of the journal of the American Medical Association as saying "that there is not 'sufficient evidence to warrant the assumption of an all-or-none authoritative position' in regard to the smoking theory."

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